

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims from the IPER amended sheets, which have already been transmitted by the International Bureau and entered, as follows:

1. (original) Method for providing a coating on the surfaces of a product with an open cell structure throughout its structure, wherein said coating is provided by means of a plasma polymerisation process, characterised in that said product with an open cell structure is degassed before performing the plasma polymerisation process.

2. (original) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the degassing is exerted by means of drying the open cell polymer in a drying kiln.

3. (original) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the degassing is exerted within the plasma polymerisation device.

4. (currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~ claim 2, characterised in that said degassing is exerted by a temperature between 20 °C and 200 °C.

5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterised in that the plasma polymer process is performed in a vacuum.

6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that in the plasma polymer process a monomer vapour is used.

7. (original) Method according to claim 6, characterised in that said monomer vapour consists of a monomer or a mixture of monomers containing halogen and/or phosphor and/or nitrogen and/or silicon.

8. (original) Method according to claim 7, characterised in that the monomer(s) result from precursor gas(es) or liquid(s) selected from fluor containing compounds and/or phosphor containing compounds and/or silicon containing compounds and/or nitrogen containing compounds.

9. (original) Method according to claim 8, characterised in that the monomer(s) result from precursor(s) selected from CF_4 , C_2F_6 , C_3F_8 , C_4F_{10} , C_5F_{12} and/or C_6F_{14} or other saturated or unsaturated fluorocarbons (C_xF_y) or hydrofluorocarbons.

10. (original) Method according to claim 8, characterised in that the monomer(s) result from precursor(s) selected from trimethylphosphate, triethylphosphate, tripropylphosphate or other derivatives of phosphoric acid.

11. (original) Method according to claim 8, characterised in that the monomer(s) result from precursor(s) selected from ethylamine, triethylamine, allylamine or acrylonitrile.

12. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that said product with an open cell structure is an open cell polymer.

13. (original) Method according to claim 12, characterised in that said open cell polymer is a polyurethane, a polyethylene, a melamine or a polystyrene foam.

14. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterised in that said product with an open cell structure is a sintered open-cell reticulated/foam-like structure.

15. (original) Method according to claim 14, characterised in that said sintered open-cell reticulated/foam-like structures are made out of pure metals, alloys or ceramics.

16. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, characterised in that open cell structure is a semi-open celled foam.

17. (original) Method according to claim 16, characterised in that said semi-open celled foam is an urethane, a polyethylene or a polystyrene semi-open celled foam.

18. (currently amended) Use of a method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 with the goal to obtain a hydrophobe, oleophobe, flame retardant and/or barrier coating on the surfaces of an open cell polymer throughout its polymer structure.